

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND
DISCIPLINE**

No. C01-034

**IN THE MATTER OF
CHRISTOPHER F. HUNTINGTON, M.D.
LICENSE NUMBER MD 9300**

Consent Order

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (2002 Reenactment) notifications of clinical restrictions were reported to the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline regarding Christopher F. Huntington, M.D. ("Respondent"). The notifications alleged poor surgical decision-making and a failure to adhere to the minimum standards of acceptable practice in the area of orthopedic surgery.

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Respondent is a licensed physician practicing orthopedic surgery in Rhode Island since 1996 with privileges at two area hospitals. He is a 1990 graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA
2. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline was notified of restrictions imposed by the Roger Williams Hospital following a cervical decompression and fusion of cervical vertebrae 4 and 5 on a 35 year-old female patient. The patient expired shortly after surgery after losing 9 liters of blood during the procedure. A

post mortem examination revealed a laceration of the right vertebral artery during the surgical procedure leading, ultimately, to her death.

3. A peer review evaluation regarding the surgery was critical of the indications for surgery, the need for decompression via an anterior approach, the use of a physician assistant rather than another qualified assistant surgeon for a surgery of this magnitude, and the Respondent's documentation in the record indicating that the patient had intact movement post surgically when nursing notes indicate the patient arrived in recovery sedated with an endotracheal tube.
4. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline reviewed the Respondent's answer to the notification involving the 35 year-old patient who expired following surgery and has concluded that the Respondent displayed a lack of candor in addressing the source of the bleeding and in describing the patient post operative status. Further, the Board finds that Respondent's surgical judgment regarding indication for surgery, documentation pre and post operatively is inadequate and his intra-operative decision-making is inadequate.
5. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline finds that the Respondent violated R.I.G.L. § 5-37-5.1 (19), (27), (28).

The parties agree as follows:

Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board.

- (1) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:

- a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;

- b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
- c. The right to cross examine witnesses;
- d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
- e. The right to further procedural steps except for specifically contained herein;
- f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
- g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
- h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;
- i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order.

(2) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an admission by the Respondent that the findings of fact were made by the Board.

(3) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties.

(4) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

(5) Respondent agrees to undergo a clinical skills evaluation at the Colorado Physician Evaluation Program (CPEP) and undergo any remedial work which may be recommended by CPEP. Additionally, Respondent agrees


to obtain continuing medical education as recommended by the Board. Until completion of such program and any remedial work which may be recommended therewith, Respondent agrees to obtain a pre-surgical second opinion for all proposed spinal surgical cases from a spinal surgeon who is unaffiliated with the Respondent's medical practice until further order of the Board. The Respondent may petition the Board for relief from this order when the requirements have been completed to the satisfaction of the Board.

Signed this

8 day of

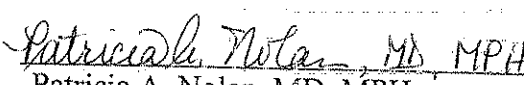
Oct, 2003.


Christopher F. Huntington, M.D.


Gerard Goulet, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held

on July 9, 2003.


Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Director of Health